

## REMARKS

The claims of this application, Claims 23-29, were rejected primarily in view of the newly cited references, although Claims 25 and 27 were rejected as being obvious in view of the previously cited Miyakawa and Asano patents. In this regard, independent Claims 23, 25, and 28 have been amended to stress the patentable distinctions of Applicants' invention over the prior art.

Particularly, as now claimed by Applicants, their invention comprises an image pickup element wherein output signals, from photo-detection elements which are arranged in a plurality of blocks, are read out in a manner such that all of the signals from a block are read out in parallel at the same time. Also, the claims require that an operation section receives the signals of corresponding predetermined ones of the plurality of blocks in parallel in relation to a block which is to be subjected to an operation. In this regard, independent Claims 23, 25, and 28 provide an interpolation operation, compression processing, and edge-emphasis processing, respectively. The claimed subject matter is described in the Specification, for example, commencing at Page 9, and is depicted in the drawings commencing with Fig. 5.

Referring now to the prior art, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention, as characterized above, is not disclosed by the cited references. Specifically, the newly cited Chen patent discloses an image device which has

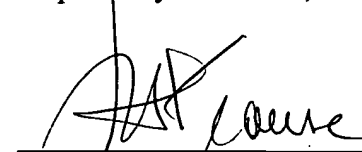
a color read-out mode that reads out signals of three pixels (e.g., 10, 20, and 22) to output lines 57-59 in parallel at the same time (Fig. 5 and column 7, line 61 to column 8, line 36), and processes the read-out signal (column 3, lines 41-48). However the Chen patent does not disclose a processing circuit which processes the output signals from the output lines 57-59, and therefore fails to teach that the processing circuit 103-104 functions together with the block memory 102 as required by Applicants' claims. That is, the Chen patent fails to disclose the operation section required in amended independent Claims 23, 25, and 28. Similarly, the cited Miyawaki patent discloses an image sensor arranged to output pixel signals in parallel on a row or column basis (e.g., output 131-132 in Fig. 1 and column 3, lines 1-26). In addition, this reference discloses the reading out of pixel signals on a block basis (e.g., column 3, lines 13-16). However, the Miyawaki patent does not disclose an input structure of a processing circuit, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action (Page 6, the last two lines), and therefore fails to disclose Applicants' claimed operation together with the plurality of output lines as required in amended independent Claims 23, 25, and 28.

The disclosures of the remaining ones of the cited references, including the Elabd, Asano, Hashimoto, and Rashkovskiy patents, do not overcome these deficiencies of Chen and Miyawaki as rejecting references, wherefore it is believed that all of the claims are allowable.

For these various reasons Applicants respectfully solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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